

St. Marys Independent

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Issue #1289

Thursday, November 20, 2025

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Won't You Be My Neighbour: Giving Tuesday Flag raised at the St. Marys town hall



STONETOWN PREPARES TO GIVE BACK

(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

Mayor Al Strathdee, Giving Tuesday committee members Julie Shackleton, Julie Docker-Johnson and Jackie Cousins, student Brynn Feeney and deputy mayor Brogan Aylward were on hand to raise the Giving Tuesday flag Monday.

WENDY LAMOND

Independent Reporter

Town council has declared Tuesday, Dec. 2, as Giving Tuesday, a day that encourages people to do a good deed and to help others.

Many businesses, service clubs and individuals have joined in the initiative of giving back. Why? Because it makes us smile and feel good to share with those less fortunate or just to show our generosity. Everyone is welcome to participate simply by giving their time, helping a neighbour or making

a donation. Taking one small step starts a ripple effect leading to the world becoming a better place.

Committee member Julie Docker-Johnson says this is the ninth year St. Marys has participated. The Giving Tuesday flag was raised on Monday at St. Marys town hall.

Watching was Nancy Wojcik's grade 3/4 class from Holy Name of Mary School. Docker-Johnson spoke to the kids and explained the importance of such an important day and the meaning of Giving Tuesday.

Stratford Police Service presents police budget estimates for St. Marys in 2026

2026 policing budget estimated at nearly \$1.6 million for St. Marys

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Town of St. Marys could pay nearly \$1.6 million for police services next year according to early 2026 budget estimates presented to the St. Marys community policing advisory committee by the Stratford Police Service (SPS) last week.

Stratford police Chief Greg Skinner presented 2026 cost estimates and a proposed 10-year capital plan, both of which have been endorsed by the Stratford Police Services Board but not approved by Stratford council, to the advisory committee at its Nov. 12 meeting. The estimated budget for St. Marys' portion of police services next year shows an increase from nearly \$1.52 million this year to just over \$1.55 million in 2026 – the highest police services budget for the town since 2017, when St. Marys paid just over \$1.55 million for police services from the OPP before switching to SPS.

"(This budget) is a higher increase than we've experienced in the past in relation to policing, and I think the primary driver comes down to policing wages when you look at it line by line," town CAO Brent Kittmer said, introducing the estimated budget to the committee.

"In addition, our capital plan is now actually extended out to 10 years, which is very helpful

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

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COMMUNITY

The Town of St. Marys aims to transform the community into a winter wonderland

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

With colourful lights, festive crafts and visits from Santa Claus, there will be no shortage of opportunities for locals to embrace the holiday spirit.

Tourism and events coordinator for the Town of St. Marys Morgan Easton said the goal is to bring locals and visitors together and celebrate the holidays. She said it's important the town's festivities include local businesses promoting economic growth for the community.

Programming began over the weekend, with the St. Marys Craft Show and the lighting of the Winter Lights displays at Milt Dunnell Field. The lights will turn on every evening from 5-11 p.m. until Jan. 1.

"The holiday season is such an important time for us to come together as a community," said Easton. "Through our holiday programming, we want to create moments that bring people closer, whether it's families skating together, neighbours enjoying the Winter Lights, or visitors discovering the magic of our downtown. It's about celebrating the spirit of the season and sharing that warmth with everyone."

The town's upcoming programming will include:

- The Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade Nov. 21. The parade departs from the Pyramid Recreation Centre at 7 p.m. and will travel James Street, west on Queen Street through downtown.

- Taking place at 175 Queen St. E on the same day is the Merchants' Open House 2025 WHOVILLE, which will run until Nov. 23, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and feature horse wagon rides, giveaways and promotions. Attendees will also have an opportunity to meet Santa Claus.

- The Winter Lights Night Market will take place on Dec. 5 from 5-8 p.m. at Milt Dunnell Field. Visitors can indulge themselves in free horse rides, browse unique items from local vendors and rest by firepits while enjoying s'mores. The St. Marys Kinsmen Club will be collecting toys and non-perishable food items for The Salvation Army.

"The holidays remind us to slow down and appreciate the simple joys of connecting with others, supporting local businesses and celebrating traditions that make St. Marys feel like home," said Easton. "It's a time to reflect on what really matters and to share that sense of community spirit with everyone around us."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Megan Feeney, St.Marys BIA chair, and Morgan Easton, tourism and events coordinator for the Town of St. Marys.

For more information about St. Marys' Christmas programming, visit www.discoverstmarys.ca/happy-holidays.

Upcoming Multi-Vendor Christmas Market to offer a local touch for shoppers

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

Two St. Marys residents are working to gather 24 community vendors for a two-day holiday sale.

Friends Cheryl Whatley and Ang March have recruited a variety of local vendors to sell their wares at a Multi-Vendor Christmas Market from Nov. 29-30 at 25 Thames Rd. in the Maple Lane Park Retirement Community.

Vendors will rotate availability over the course of the weekend, taking place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on each day. Whatley said each vendor will be selling something different, avoiding similar items for sale across the market. With a promise of free admission and door prizes, Whatley is looking forward to bringing the community together.

"We want to keep Christmas shopping in town, to support small businesses, so that people can find unique

items locally," said Whatley. "We have an incredible variety of vendors, from baking to crocheting, makeup, sewing and more! We generally keep it to only one vendor selling the same items."

Whatley, who has experience in vendor-market planning and currently works part-time in the dental and nail industry, is hoping to expand as a small business owner with Ang. Whatley connected with local vendors on social media and started organizing the event.

"There was a tremendous response from vendors wishing to join in on our market," said Whatley. "We are at capacity for vendors and couldn't be happier. The unfortunate part is that we had to turn vendors down because we have filled up all the space of the venue."

Whatley said they plan on hosting the event annually, with discussions of a possible quarterly sale, depending on turnout, suggestions and feedback. Whatley said the event will provide a great opportunity to shop local and

support small, independent businesses.

Whatley said there are several spots to park close to the venue, and for people to avoid parking in the laneway to

ensure the road is clear for traffic. If there is any confusion, there will be signs and someone onsite directing traffic to the designated parking areas.

7 Day Forecast

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SHUR-GAIN

Wednesday Nov-19th	Thursday Nov-20th	Friday Nov-21st	Saturday Nov-22nd	Sunday Nov-23rd	Monday Nov-24th	Tuesday Nov-25th
Mainly sunny	Sun & cloud	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Mainly sunny	Light rain	Sun & cloud
5 OC	0 OC	7 OC	6 OC	8 OC	9 OC	7 OC
Feels like 3	Feels like -3	Feels like 4	Feels like 5	Feels like 6	Feels like 6	Feels like 5

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COMMUNITY

Perth-Wellington MP encourages local employers to apply for Canada Summer Jobs 2026 funding

JULIA PAUL

Independent Reporter

The employer application process for the Canada Summer Jobs 2026 program is now open, Perth-Wellington MP John Nater announced recently, encouraging local organizations and businesses to apply for funding that helps connect young people with valuable summer work experience.

“Through Canada Summer Jobs, young Canadians have an opportunity to gain the skills and experience they need to get jobs now and in the future,” said Nater. “I encourage employers to apply for funding to create jobs that will help students, employers and our local economies.”

Last summer, the program helped create 190 jobs across Perth-Wellington, supporting a mix of not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses.

The Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program provides wage subsidies to help employers create meaningful summer employment opportunities for youth aged 15-30. Nater said the program benefits both students and employers by providing young workers with practical experience while addressing local labour shortages and skill-development needs.

“It’s about giving youth a chance to learn, contribute and stay connected to the communities that raised them,” he said.

This year’s application period runs from Nov. 4 to Dec. 11, closing one week earlier than in previous years. Nater said the earlier deadline is intended to allow employers to be notified of their funding sooner, though he added more improvement is still needed.

“While the application period will close slightly earlier this year, it is anticipated that notifications will still begin around the beginning of April,” Nater said. “Not only is the April notification date much too late for most students to find out if they have

a summer job, but employers also must budget and therefore need confirmation of whether or not they will receive funding well in advance of this date.”

He noted university and college students often need to finalize their summer-employment plans by mid-February, which can make the current timeline challenging.

“When students finish exams in April, they’re ready to begin their summer jobs,” he said. “By that time, many have already accepted other positions.”

Nater said improving the timing of employer notifications could help match more students with local opportunities earlier in the year and ensure nonprofit agencies can plan and train staff ahead of their busy summer season.

Funding through the program will once again be available to not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Successful applicants will receive wage subsidies to hire young people for full-time summer jobs that align with community priorities and local economic needs.

“Creating summer jobs for students benefits not only youth and employers, but also the local economies in Perth-Wellington and across the country,” Nater said. “It’s a win for everyone – young workers gain experience and employers can train potential long-term employees they might not otherwise have been able to hire.”

Employers interested in applying for Canada Summer Jobs 2026 funding are encouraged to submit their applications electronically through the Grants and Contributions Online Services (GCOS) portal. Creating a GCOS account is a one-time process that allows organizations to securely apply for various Employment and Social Development Canada funding opportunities.

More information is available at www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html

Bravo	Boo
We have 3 Bravos this week. 1) Bravo to the manager and service department at St. Marys Canadian Tire. I had recently made two large purchases at the store and unfortunately both had hiccups regarding delivery days. The manager and service dept went above and beyond to be sure my new tires were installed prior to a drive north the next day. The manager was also helpful with some guidance regarding missing CT points. Such a wonderful personalized service. 2) Bravo to Barry and Steve for picking up our yard waste throughout the year; a beneficial service provided by our town. 3) Bravo to the gentleman downtown, in the Ulch jacket, where Nina was taking photos, that handed my little boy along with another boy some diecast tractors. I think you made the day of two little guys.	We have no Boos this week.
*Please note all Boos and Bravos must be signed in order to be considered. Bravos and Boos are submitted by community members and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent.	

Quote of the Week

“I’m just grateful for my teammates, I’m so thankful for my teammates. We did it. It wasn’t the prettiest game but it never is. I don’t want to make this moment about me; this is about this team.”

- Saskatchewan Roughriders starting quarterback Trevor Harris on winning the Grey Cup and the game’s outstanding player award.

Overheard at the Coffee Shop

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Soon there might be enough gyms in town to match the number of pizza places.

Shop local at the Merchants Open house this weekend!

Have you heard something humorous around town that you think might be of interest to others? Either email them to us at info@stmarysindependent.com with the title "Overheard at The Coffee Shop", call 519-284-0041 or drop by the office to let us know!



Restoring small-town journalism, one community at a time!

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St. Marys Independent

Thoughts of the Week
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395 Queen Street West

The best way to multiply your happiness is to share it with others.

Every person has a story to tell and a dream to share

Always believe that a few caring people can change the world.

Even miracles take a little time.

Community Christmas Dinners gathering donations for fifth year running

EMILY STEWART

Independent Reporter

In its fifth year, the group behind the community Christmas dinners is seeking support from St. Marys residents to ensure everyone who wants a holiday dinner receives one.

Rachael Roberts O'Neill and a group of friends will be providing Christmas dinners for individuals and families on Christmas Eve. The group is seeking financial donations to later buy ingredients for the holiday dinners and toys for the children. Roberts O'Neill and her friends are also looking for turkey donations.

"They used to donate money, but now it's a mix between turkey and money, and we definitely need both," said Roberts O'Neill. "We still like to give the kids who we deliver meals to; we give the kids toys as well, so we need cash donations to buy the toys."

The Christmas meals are dropped off on Christmas Eve so they can be reheated and enjoyed by the recipients at any time. The Creamery makes the meals and Roberts O'Neill and her friends also get turkey donations from Country Roots Fresh Market and other food from Joe's Diner and Delmar Food Outlet.

The group is looking to provide Christmas dinners to around 120 people or more.

Most of those receiving the community Christmas dinners are those who cannot afford one themselves. Christmas dinners have also been delivered to parents in St. Marys on behalf of their children who moved away and can't make it down for the holidays, as well as those who haven't had a holiday meal since losing their spouse or are otherwise going to be alone.

"To me, I could not fathom not having a Christmas dinner on Christmas Day, so it's just giving them a little bit of comfort, like giving people comfort or if you're by yourself and you're probably not going to cut the turkey for one on Christmas Eve, so it's important that we look after those people as well," Roberts O'Neill said.

Roberts O'Neill has been organizing this initiative for the past five years and says it keeps growing year after year, with lots of support from a generous community.

"We found that the community, just like last year and the years previous, have helped tremendously in raising the funds and what we need to make it successful," she said.

Anyone interested in receiving a Christmas dinner can email rachjoneill@gmail.com; financial donations by way of e-transfer can also be sent to that email address.

Yes, it's that time again — Christmas is coming fast!

Share the Spirit of Christmas with the St. Marys Independent

Get a head start on the season with the **St. Marys Independent's Christmas Greetings**, publishing **December 18** — a great way to wish the community a Merry Christmas and thank your customers for their support.

A portion of proceeds will be **donated to St. Marys Healthcare Foundation**, helping provide care and comfort to local families.

Don't wait — reserve your greeting today!

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GRANT HAVEN MEDIA

STONETOWN CRIER

The latest municipal news from the Town of St. Marys



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COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION

We can help your community project grow! The Community Grant Program applications are live. This program provides funding for programs, projects, activities and events that enrich the community and advance Council's strategic goals.

Apply by November 30: townofstmarys.com/grants



ST. MARYS NOURISH MARKET

St. Marys United Church (85 Church St. S)

The St. Marys Nourish Equal Access Food Market takes place on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 2 - 4 PM offering fresh local fruit, vegetables and meat available at wholesale prices.

519-508-3663



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON

- WinterLights: Nov 14 - Jan 1
- Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade: Nov 21
- Downtown Merchants Open House: Nov 21 - 23
- Giving Tuesday: Dec 2
- WinterLights Night Market: Dec 5 - 6

www.discoverstmarys.ca/happyholidays



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Senior of the Week



Our senior of the week is Marlene Gibson who just turned 86 on Nov. 17. Marlene was born in Stratford and grew up in Downie Township. She has five kids, six grandkids, 12 great-grandkids and one great-great-grandson. The five generations are shown in the picture. Marlene loves to garden and enjoys going out for lunch and doing crossword puzzles.

If you would like to nominate someone for Senior of the Week, contact us at 519-284-0041 or info@stmarysindependent.com.

Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade returns this Friday, Nov. 21

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

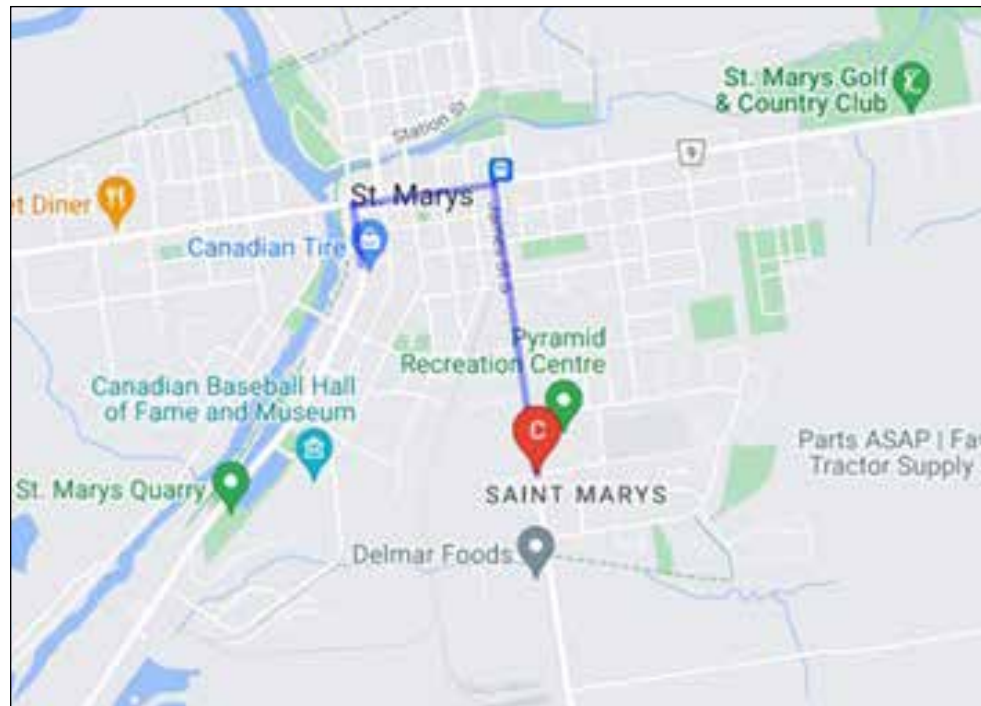
Santa Claus is coming to St. Marys this Friday, Nov. 21 for the Kinsmen's traditional evening parade!

Volunteers will begin closing parking stalls on Queen Street East from Water Street to Church Street and on Water Street South from Queen Street East to Jones Street East at 4 p.m. to ensure that stalls are empty by the start of the parade.

The parade will leave the Pyramid Recreation Centre at 7 p.m., and follow its familiar route up James Street South, west on Queen Street East through downtown, then south on Water Street South, where it will end.

Following the parade, be sure to visit the Winter-Lights display at Milt Dunnell Field. The lights will be lit each evening between 5 and 11 p.m. until Jan. 1, 2026. Those who would like to donate to the display can do so at the Waving Santa display or through an online form: www.townofstmarys.com/winterlights.

Want to enjoy more festive light displays around



(PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN OF ST. MARYS)

The parade route for the St. Marys Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade.

town? Starting on Nov. 28, the Holiday Light Tour will be back and better than ever. To view the full map and all holiday season details visit: www.discoverstmarys.ca/happyholidays.

Be sure to follow the Town of St. Marys' Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts for any updates and reminders.

Stratford Police Service presents police budget estimates

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

for us to start planning, and you'll see some increases in there as well as the police have taken on a contract for body-worn cameras and Tasers, and so we have a cost-share portion of that at \$95,000 per year for the next 10 years. So that's now incorporated in the 10-year plan on top of regular cruiser replacements and things like that."

According to Skinner, the police service's wages and benefits account for roughly 88 per cent of the overall estimated budget. For St. Marys, policing personnel costs are expected to jump from just over \$1.2 million this year to more than \$1.4 million in 2026.

Skinner noted there may be some relief from that increase as he anticipates recouping some personnel costs from 2025 related to the SPS becoming a younger police service, with younger officers, many fresh out of school, stepping in to fill vacancies left behind after retirements and resignations of officers who were higher on the pay scale.

"As our police service gets younger, there's a differential between a first-class constable's pay and a probationary constable's pay of about \$40,000-\$50,000," Skinner said. "So, it has an impact on our budget when we are hiring a lot of young people who have to go incrementally through the increased class system before they get to first class, which does save some money on the salary side of the budget. You'll see, probably, a reconciliation for 2025's budget where there may be some increased money coming back to the Town of St. Marys ... and 2026 should be the

same ... hopefully to reallocate to the police budget."

From the police service's 10-year capital plan, Skinner explained why the SPS has signed a nearly \$7-million, 10-year contract for the purchase and any necessary replacement of body-worn cameras, Tasers and personal radios for police officers.

"It's a significant cost, but what that allows us to do is constantly replace items as they get broken or, for some other reason, malfunction so that we will never be without equipment," Skinner said.

"A good example of this is the Wildwood drowning that our officers went to where the officers immediately (deployed) to try to participate in the rescue efforts and a couple of our Tasers got damaged in the water in the process. So, that impacted our ability to have enough Tasers to be able to deploy to our front line. Now in this new world order, those Tasers would be replaced immediately under this contract so we would never have the downtime and the lag time to have those replaced because we have a contract to have a number (of them) on site on an ongoing basis."

While the community policing advisory committee ultimately voted to recommend approval of the estimated 2026 SPS budget by St. Marys council, there is a process through which council can dispute the St. Marys portion of next year's costs. The police service's overall estimated 2026 budget won't be considered approved until it is given the green light by Stratford council which, like St. Marys, can dispute the budget's bottom line but cannot recommend specific changes.

Weekend Quiz

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1. Bermuda is located in which Ocean?
2. What is the highest female voice in a choir?
3. What university is home to the Fighting Irish?
4. What is also known as Japanese horseradish?
5. The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald occurred on what day?
6. Who hit No.1 in 2008 with the song 'Touch My Body'?
7. What is the talking dog's name in "Family Guy"?
8. What's the fancy name for a squirrel's cozy little home?
9. What country will host the 2026 Winter Olympics?
10. Who played Tony Soprano in The Sopranos?

By Jake Grant

This week's answers are found on pg. 39

Kirkton-Woodham Optimists recognize local volunteer



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Optimist Club of Kirkton-Woodham presented its annual community service award to Cindy Bilyea on Friday, Nov. 7 at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre. Cindy has volunteered and served in many ways over the years. Some of the groups that have benefited from this are St. Marys Minor Hockey, the Kirkton Horticultural Society, St.Marys Health Care Foundation, Quadro Communications, Villages United Church and South Perth Centennial School. Congratulations Cindy and thank you for making the community a better place. Pictured above, from left, are Cliff Thomson, event organizer, Barry Miller, club president, recipient Cindy Bilyea and Christian Brandt, past club president.



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GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Anyone who has ever considered learning a new skill, obtaining their high-school diploma, or teaching their employees better communication and collaboration should look no further than Adult Learning Programs of Perth.

Operating from the St. Marys Public Library five days a week, Adult Learning Programs of Perth is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development. The organization provides free education and training for those looking to advance their digital skills, work towards their Grade 12 equivalency through the Canadian Adult Education Credit (CAEC), improve essential skills in reading, writing and math, or learn any number of other skills that advance each adult learner's individual goals, whether that be fostering greater independence, obtaining post-secondary education, or improving their employability.

"There's a bit of a misconception that we strictly offer digital-tech (education), which we do a lot of, and then academics – so math and English and stuff. While that is traditionally what we offer, now we have the ability to offer so much more and we also have the ability to work with employers to help with employee retention," said Nicole Carradine, one of two adult learning coordinators who offer programming to residents in St. Marys, Stratford and across Perth County.



(GALEN SIMMONS PHOTO)

Adult Learning Programs of Perth program coordinator Nicole Carradine stands inside the adult learning classroom and office at the St. Marys Public Library.

"We can go into a factory or a business and work on anything from tech skills to soft skills. We can also do that with smaller businesses and have them come here or have them refer employees who are maybe struggling with something come in and work with us independently, and it's all covered so there's no fees or anything."

Adult Learning Programs of Perth's mandate is to help anyone aged 18 and older achieve their learning goals, whether it's something as simple as learning home plumbing or how to stay safe online to more ambitious goals like

education or career advancement.

Carradine and adult learning instructor Stephanie Shute work to assess each person's individual goals, determine where they fit in the organization's five goal pathways – employment, apprenticeship, post-secondary, secondary school credit, or independence – before developing a path for education and training programs.

Some of those programs, like the employment soft skills program and the cybersecurity workshop, are offered directly by Adult Learning Programs of Perth, while others are offered free of charge

through in-person and online-based partner organizations like GCF Learn Free, CAEC and the Learning Hub.

"And if they do work towards writing their CAEC exams, so they're getting ready to have their (Grade 12 equivalency), there's a cost to write those exams and the (St. Marys) Friends of the Library have agreed to help with the odd person who's looking to cover the cost of the exams," added St. Marys Public Library CEO Sarah Andrews. "They're about \$100, so it's a lot of money for people. Through Nicole, they approach the Friends and they've set aside some funds for that."

"We're trying to remove as many barriers from people as we can to help them succeed. We've had some really interesting scenarios come out through COVID where students who kind of got lost and were no longer attending formal education were really struggling because they were struggling to read, struggling to do homework; they weren't even going to school. ... Through this program, we've been able to reconnect them and accomplish some of their goals."

Whatever someone's goals for their life might be, both Andrews and Carradine are encouraging residents of St. Marys, Perth South and the surrounding area to consider Adult Learning Programs of Perth. For more information, visit www.townofstmarys.com/recreation-community-culture/education/adult-learning/about-adult-learning/.



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From crafts to gift-wrapping: St. Marys Public Library offers something for everyone this holiday season

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

With the holiday season now in motion, the St. Marys Public Library is shifting gears to providing an assortment of programming for the community to enjoy.

Library services coordinator Caroline Rabideau said as part of the library's initiative this year and leading into next year, they will be hosting a Learning for Life series where locals can learn about everyday life through creative activities.

"We want people to feel connected to the community, which is essential around the holidays when people may feel isolated; they crave more socialization," said Rabideau. "The library is a great space for that, and we love connecting our community."

Upcoming holiday programming will include:

- Make & Take: Origami Christmas Stars will run on Nov. 26 from 7-9 p.m. The social activity will teach participants how to make origami Dutch ornaments. Registration is available online.

- The Star of Bethlehem Talk with special guest Tony Martinez will take place on Dec. 2 from 6-8 p.m. Hosted at the

library, listeners will learn about the relation of astronomical phenomena to the story of the star of Bethlehem.

- The drop-in Holiday Wrapping Party will run on Dec. 4 from 6-8 p.m. and Dec. 5 from 1-3 p.m. Locals can bring their gifts to the library and learn wrapping tips and techniques. Cash donations are welcome.

- Create & Connect: Christmas Felt Star will take place on Dec. 11 from 6:30-8 p.m., where participants will learn how to blanket stitch and make festive stars.

- An Evening with Austen: Celebrating Jane Austen's 250th birthday. The free ticketed event will be hosted by the library at the Friendship Centre on Dec. 16 from 6-8 p.m. Attendees will be treated to refreshments and trivia, along with a special presentation from Professor Gabrielle Poulton.

"I'm very excited for the locals to experience the holiday programming that we have going on this holiday. I think the gift wrapping will be very popular," said Rabideau. "The craft programs that we're running allow participants to explore their creative side, and I love teaching and being a part of the learning process."



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Caroline Rabideau, coordinator, and Rebecca Cousins, library clerk, at the St. Marys Public Library.

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United Way updates living wage for Perth-Huron to \$24.60/hr

Cost of housing a big driver of living wage increase

GALEN SIMMONS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The cost of housing and a lack of affordable options for residents of Perth-Huron across the income spectrum are primary drivers for the recently announced increase to the area's living wage, which rose from \$23.05 per hour in 2024 to \$24.60 this year.

Announced by the United Way Perth-Huron and the Ontario Living Wage Network during Living Wage Week Nov. 10-14, a living wage shows how much a worker must earn to make ends meet and enjoy modest participation in the community. The calculations gather expenses for three types of households: two adults supporting two small children, a single parent with one child and a single adult. Results are aggregated and include any applicable government taxes, transfers and benefits.

"This year, the main driver is cost of living related to housing, primarily," said United Way Perth-Huron executive director Ryan Erb. "We've been seeing housing increase for a number of years and rental housing, even right now in this region, has not begun to come down. So, what we're seeing is a reflection of the market, frankly."

According to Erb, the housing market is responding to a lack of housing supply across the spectrum, especially housing appropriate for those living on lower incomes or those who require specialized supports. As demand in the area increases with major draws like the Stratford Festival, the Stratford Chefs School and the University of Waterloo, Erb said there are fewer options that meet the needs of the community, with many residents paying much higher than a third of their monthly income.

"There is not enough housing that is housing that is affordable to the needs of the people in the community," Erb said. "So, there isn't the right housing, there isn't affordable housing for seniors – people that want

to downsize from their large house to something that's affordable for them. There isn't the right housing that's available for people who are middle income – people who are raising children are having a hard time getting into the housing market – and rental rates, because of all of that, are continuing to grow.

"... We have all these pressures on housing over and above the regular housing needs of our community, and those are all good things that we face in our community, but it does mean there's just more competition in this particular region."

Erb said part of the solution to the housing crisis is working with the Ontario Living Wage Network to certify local businesses as Living Wage Employers, ensuring they are paying their workers enough to live locally.

"A minimum wage as opposed to a living wage means you're paying more than 30 per cent of your income towards housing," Erb said. "We know from surveys and conversations with people in the community, often-times people are spending far more than 30 per cent of their income in that regard. And so, a minimum-wage job, even though we're thankful the government has begun to index it to inflation over the last couple of years, it still doesn't keep up with the gap that exists. We're talking about \$7-an-hour difference between what it costs to live in the community and what minimum wage is."

"... We don't pretend (paying a living wage) is an easy thing for every business to do. ... But we have lots of evidence from businesses themselves that it improves their bottom line by improving productivity, reducing turnover, improving the mood of the workforce. ... We know when we pay people at this level, they're spending money locally in the economy. This is actually good for the local economy."

Erb said the other piece of the puzzle is working with all levels of government to both increase the local housing supply to meet the growing demand and find ways to reduce the cost of living in other areas.



(PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED WAY PERTH-HURON)

This graphic shows the breakdown of the 2025 living wage, \$24.60 per hour.

"Government has a role to play here. Things like \$10-a-day child care, if it were to be fully implemented, would actually reduce the living wage, right? We can think about this as a community. It's not only on the employers; it's also on government, it's also on all of us to talk about."

At \$24.60 an hour, the 2025 living wage for Perth-Huron is broken down as follows:

- 33.4 per cent goes to housing and related expenses like insurance and utilities;
- 27.2 per cent goes to expenses like clothing, medication and phone;
- 15 per cent goes to transportation, which has become more expensive in rural areas like Perth-Huron due to a lack of regional public-transit options;
- 13.8 per cent goes to food, another cost that continues to increase but not at the same rate it has in recent years; and
- 10.6 per cent goes to costs associated with raising children.

To learn more about the living wage or becoming a living wage employer, visit perthhuron.unitedway.ca.

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Independent Reporter



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St. Marys Farmers' Market debuts its first calendar fundraiser

ALEX HUNT

Independent Reporter

The St. Marys Farmers' Market has launched its 2026 calendar, a fundraiser aimed at supporting the market and providing vendor recipes for anyone who wishes to replicate local flavours.

The combined efforts of market board members, vendors and a local photographer Andrea Macko culminated in a recipe-filled calendar currently available for purchase by contacting the market via social media, at which point payment will be arranged.

Calendars cost \$20 each and will also be available for purchase at the next market sale held at the Pyramid Recreation Centre on Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. There are currently 100 available.

"This was a very collaborative process between the board members and vendors submitting recipes," said board chair Ann Slater. "We have just returned to fundraising after a hiatus of a couple of years. The more funds we raise from this initiative, we will be able to keep stall fees down for new vendors."

Some recipe contributions to the calendar include an October salad provided by Ann Slater; chocolate-covered energy balls provided by Bopa's Bees; and dandelion cookies provided by Ingrid

Vanderschot.

Slater said board members will evaluate the success of the fundraiser to determine if it will run annually.

"I want to try the maple chocolate chip squares. All the recipes just look so delicious," said Slater. "We have a great market board. People bring different skills and that's fun to work with. We have been planning this project for years, which combines everyone's field of interests."

The market held a soft calendar launch on Nov. 1 and the calendar officially made its debut on Nov. 8.

Slater said positive feedback was received on the calendar's cover design, which was formatted from a painting that was purchased by the market at last year's Stonetown Arts Show and Sale.

"The cover of the calendar captures the market's artistic essence, with vibrant colours that showcase the vendors, customers and people coming together," said Slater. "This is what the market strives for; it brings the rural and the urban together."

Slater hopes to see more produce from farm vendors contributing to the market's future. With high-quality products already being offered at every sale, Slater said additional local farm support would be a valuable contribution.



(ALEX HUNT PHOTO)

Ann Slater, board chair for the St. Marys Farmers' Market, holding the 2026 Farmers' Market Calendars.



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(10) Charolais cows - all bred Charolais - vaccinated

(11) Cows: (4) Black cows & calves, (4) bred cows, (3)black heifers - bred Angus/Simm X, vaccinated

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(2) Charolais Cows

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Santa stops in at Lyric Flowers

St. Marys Lions Club calls on the community to give warmth this Christmas



For the fourth year in a row, Santa made a visit to Lyric Flowers to have his picture taken by Nina Polidoro with many local families. The event is a collaboration between Polidoro and Lyric Flowers with fundraising efforts going to support the St. Marys Healthcare Foundation. The classic 1952 red Dodge pickup is provided by Nancy and Bruce White. Stay tuned for a grand total announcement of what was donated.

(WENDY LAMOND PHOTO)

ALEX HUNT
Independent Reporter

The St. Marys Lions Club is asking locals to donate winter wear for those in need to help spread warmth during the holidays.

An annual initiative since 2007 started by Lions Georgina McGregor and Evelyn Albers, The St. Marys Lions Club is collecting winter hats, mitts, coats and boots for adults and kids.

People who wish to donate can place items in a donation bin in the reception area of the town's banks: TD Canada Trust, BMO Bank of Montreal, Scotiabank and RBC Royal Bank, as well as GC Boyle Law Firm.

Donations will be collected by Lions members and transported to Cascade Cleaners to be cleaned by Marlene Forman. From there, donations will be displayed at MacPherson's Crafts storefront at 83 Queen St. W. Anyone is welcome to take what they need.

Lions Club member Dawn Reynen said the BMO donation bin has been overflowing with clothing and she is grateful for the support so far. If someone plans

on donating an item, it should be in good condition, she explained.

"If it's stained or ripped, then it should not be donated," said Reynen. "We have had people in the community donate brand-new coats that they have purchased, which is heartwarming; it's all anonymous and we have no idea who's giving us these coats. They just drop them off at the bank."

Donations will be accepted until the end of the month, and the storefront will close on Dec. 13.

The storefront donation display will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Reynen said there will be nobody watching, removing any stigma or pressure from those who need to take a coat.

"The Lions Club wants to give back and serve the community, in collaboration with the business owners, whom we give a big shout out to," said Reynen. "The club is very grateful for the generosity of the business owners and residents in town, who collaborate with us for our community projects. We truly are 'Stronger Together.'"



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Community Liaison Committee

The next Community Liaison Committee Meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 11th** at 6:00pm at the St. Marys Municipal Operations Center. Members of the public who wish to observe are welcome to attend. Residents who wish to speak in front of the Committee may submit a detailed request in writing to the Committee. The request will be considered by the Committee and approved prior to the meeting.

Please submit all requests, questions, and concerns for the meeting to kara.pelissero@vcimentos.com by **Tuesday, December 9th at 10am.**

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St. Marys library to initiate capital campaign for Community Commons project at 14 Church St. N

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

Excitement is building about the 14 Church St. N property, and a new capital campaign is about to get underway.

The St. Marys Library Board and associate committees are leading the campaign and inviting the community to help champion the project and bring it to reality.

The project, known as the Community

Commons at 14 Church St., will provide the library and town departments with additional programming space to better serve the community. The library's 2024 Space Needs Study, conducted by the town's building and development department, identified that the library will need an additional 2,638 square feet by 2034 to meet community need.

The Friendship Centre and museum are also service areas needing additional space to keep up with program demands.

The Community Commons project is a great solution to increasing opportunities for participation and connection in the St. Marys core.

To launch this project, the library is initiating a capital campaign committee and asking interested community members who want to make this happen to come forward and attend the first committee meeting on Thursday, Nov. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

The library is looking for individuals

who can help raise funds, share information, plan events and recognize donors. This is an exciting opportunity to build another legacy in St. Marys for years to come.

For further information about this project or the committee, contact Sarah Andrews, library CEO, at 519-284-2340 ext. 723 or sandrews@stmaryspubliclibrary.ca.

Stratford police Stuff-A-Cruiser season is here

ST. MARYS INDEPENDENT

Staff Contribution

The Stratford Police Service (SPS) is jumping into the festive season with the recent announcement that it will be supporting the communities of Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South through its annual Stuff-A-Cruiser Drives once again.

Over the next month, members of the SPS community resource unit will be out in full force supporting the House of Blessing and Salvation Army at various

locations collecting food and toys for those who could use a little extra support.

Toy Drives in St. Marys and Stratford are as follows:

Nov. 15 – St. Marys Toy Drive in support of the Salvation Army of St. Marys

- Location: Canadian Tire – 84 Wellington St. S, St. Marys

- Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nov. 22 – Stratford Toy Drive in support of the House of Blessing and Salvation Army of Stratford

- Locations: Walmart – 920 Ontario St., Stratford; Canadian Tire – 1093 Ontario St., Stratford

- Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Nov. 29 – Stratford Food Drive in support of the House of Blessing and Salvation Army Stratford

- Locations: Zehrs – 865 Ontario St., Stratford; No Frills – 618 Huron St., Stratford; Sobeys – 581 Huron St., Stratford; Walmart – 920 Ontario St., Stratford

- Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 13 – St. Marys Food Drive in

support of the Salvation Army of St. Marys

- Locations: Your Independent Grocer – 780 Queen St. E, St. Marys; Foodland – 84 Wellington St. S, St. Marys

- Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The SPS says it is excited to be supporting the House of Blessing and the Salvation Army with the Stuff-A-Cruiser campaign and is looking forward to seeing the amazing support community members provide each and every year.

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St. Marys Independent **SPORTS**

DCVI senior girls win WOSSAA title in electric single A final



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team won the WOSSAA single A championship plaque with a 39-27 victory over Monseigneur-Bruyère on Nov. 13. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Alanna Saville, Charlotte Richardson, Marin Chateauvert and Libby McCurdy. In the back row, from left, are coach Brian Chalupka, Maeve Wheeler, Emma Hodgkinson, Reagan Jones, Holly Black, Lena Thompson, Valentina Urbano Martinez and coach Tim O'Connor. Not pictured was head coach Monica Ryan.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team, backed by one of the craziest crowds in DCVI sports history, won the WOSSAA single A championship with a 39-27 win over London's Monseigneur-Bruyère, earning the Salukis an OFSAA berth.

Brian Chalupka, who, along with Tim O'Connor, was filling in for head coach Monica Ryan, noted the team's intensity and defensive prowess led them to the win.

"They just don't stop," Chalupka said. "That's the way they've been playing all year, ever since I joined the team halfway through the season. They are intense on defence and offence. I think the main reason we won was our defence. We basically shut them down in the half-court all game long."

O'Connor added the team's defensive ability is built on their cool, calm and collected nature.

"These girls enjoy defending and making the other team have to really earn things. Our opponent didn't have a lot of shooting, and they weren't really pressuring, so we were able to be very patient, and our girls have a lot of composure. They know what's going on and they make good decisions."

"Their demeanour, their patience and their composure are absolutely a reflection of Monica (Ryan) and her coach-

ing style," O'Connor continued. "She's great with the kids and very calm in all situations. I've never been to an OFSAA, so it'll be fun to help out, but this is definitely Monica's team and they are a reflection of how great a coach she is."

DCVI had a narrow, one-point lead after the first quarter, but extended the gap to six by halftime, leading 20-14 after two quarters. The Salukis' biggest quarter offensively came in the third when St. Marys put up 15 to take a 35-19 lead heading into the fourth quarter, in which they closed out the impressive victory to win the WOSSAA single A championship.

Marin Chateauvert led the Salukis with 20 points, an offensive outburst that included a three-pointer in each quarter. O'Connor noted Chateauvert's scoring touch was pivotal in taking control of the game.

"Marin (Chateauvert) hit a few shots that gave us a little breathing room. If she doesn't hit a couple of those three-pointers, we go into halftime with a one- or two-point game, and that could have changed the outcome. Marin has a very calm demeanour out there, and she never gets too flustered."

Chateauvert explained how the team's well-balanced play led to their WOSSAA title.

"I think we got the win because we work so well as a team," Chateauvert told the Independent. "Every time we're on the court, we're just having fun and



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Students in attendance for the St. Marys DCVI Senior Girls Basketball team's 39-27 WOSSAA final win on Nov. 13 against Monseigneur-Bruyère jump and cheer. The St. Marys supporters created one of the loudest atmospheres at a DCVI sporting event in recent memory.

it's a little unserious, but we still work really hard at the same time."

Chateauvert also said the team had some nerves entering the game, but also had momentum after a triple-overtime win on Nov. 3 over Mitchell, which earned the Salukis their WOSSAA finals appearance.

"It was a little bit nerve-racking, but we had just come off a big win against Mitchell (on Nov. 3), so it felt good knowing that we had the ability to beat really good teams. Coming into this, we didn't really know what to expect, so we just wanted to play hard like we can right off the bat."

Charlotte Richardson put up 14 points for St. Marys, while Alanna Saville chipped in five. Saville and Reagan Jones were also pinpointed by O'Connor for their strong efforts on the defensive side of the ball.

"Alanna (Saville) was worth mentioning because she was relentless on offence," said O'Connor. "Even when she missed a few shots, she kept battling through it and made a few, and made some big free throws for us."

"Regan (Jones) did a fantastic job defensively today. Regan plays fabulous defence. She plays with good composure, she's so tough to score on, and she doesn't try to do more than she can do. Both Regan and Alanna use their strength very well, and they always fight hard, and they are both huge parts of this team's defence."

One of the biggest factors in the Salukis having momentum behind them was a rowdy, boisterous crowd piled into the Salukis' home gym, a full capacity of students creating one of the loudest environments for a DCVI sporting event in recent memory.

"I like to see crowds getting loud," O'Connor said. "The crowd was great and that's exciting for the kids. I'm excited that they had this opportunity. I think it was a huge part of our success. When we played St. Michael (on Nov. 5), the crowd was very loud in favour of the other team, so it was definitely more fun to hear the cheers when you score."

Both Chateauvert and Libby McCurdy, two of the team's most veteran leaders, raved about the positive impact the crowd had on the Salukis' performance.

"It was insane," Chateauvert said of the crowd. "I don't even know how to describe (the atmosphere and the crowd reaction). It was just so much fun hearing the crowd cheering for us and knowing that we were all able to work as a team and feed off that energy."

"I think the crowd was really with us today," said McCurdy. "The bench was really loud, too, and the environment in the gym was crazy. It was the first time I've ever heard the gym like this before. I didn't know how loud it would be, but it was electric."

U14 A Boys capture silver at Glancaster tournament

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The Frayne Custom Cabinets U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock took the silver medals at the Glancaster Bombers Veterans Memorial Tournament Nov. 7-9.

The tournament gave the Rock a chance to show what they could do against teams from outside their normal Shamrock League division, with head coach Josh Becker highlighting the value in playing new competition from larger cities.

"This tournament was a building block for us, seeing new centres and getting away from Shamrock and competing against bigger centres from Ottawa, Cambridge and Michigan," said Becker. "Shamrock is one of the toughest leagues around. We had to compete hard every game (in the tournament), and it's just nice seeing fresh teams that you might play once or twice a year."

One of the biggest bright spots for St. Marys all tournament was their penalty kill, which scored five of their 17 total goals in the tournament. Becker mentioned the team's grit as helping them have such a successful penalty kill.

"The boys just wanted it more," Becker told the Independent. "They dug down deep and worked hard all weekend long. Right from Game 1 to Game 6, they never let up once."

Becker added he was pleased with how some of the key fundamentals they had been working on heading into the tournament finally started coming together.

"We've been working on a couple



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The Frayne Custom Cabinets U14 A Boys St. Marys Rock claimed the silver medals at the Glancaster Bombers Veterans Memorial Tournament Nov. 7-9. Pictured sitting in the front row, from left to right, are Jake Ackert and Oliver Strickler. In the second row, from left, are Mason Soumalias, Grayson Gorley, Grayson Gillespie, Cam Hughes, Jackson Schoonerwoerd and Simon Bailey. In the third row, from left, are manager Joe Wilhelm, trainer Brian Barker, Sam Colvin, Beckham Skillings, Rylan Dobinson, Lukas Francis, Logan Broughton, assistant coach Ryan Francis, Ben Becker, Liam Barker, Bryce Blight, Elliot Wilhelm, head coach Josh Becker and assistant coach Jayden Rooney.

powerplays," Becker said. "It's been a process, but it's starting to click, and the guys are getting into position, finding open ice and using their speed to their advantage. We're not the biggest team out there, but we can out-skate a lot of teams."

When the Rock faced off against Niagara for the first time in the tournament,

they tied 1-1. However, the second time around in the tournament's semi-final was different. The Rock came out relentlessly as a solid defensive and goaltending performance kept them in the game, with a goal from Lukas Francis in the third period being the dagger. Goaltender Oliver Strickler earned the win in net.

Becker praised the team's determination in their semi-final victory.

"The grit was there," Becker said. "We were getting pucks deep and winning forecheck battles. They never let up one shift. They don't know how to stop. They just continue to go. They were first to the puck, winning battles, digging hard in the corners and getting out front of the net. It was a continuous effort from every line."

Francis led the team in points, and both Strickler and Jake Ackert were strong in between the pipes throughout the weekend, combining for four shutouts in six games. According to Becker, Francis, Strickler and Ackert led a team-wide collection of strong showings.

"Lukas (Francis) is our captain and our leader, and he led the weekend on the scoresheet. But up and down the lineup, our defence and goaltending were excellent. Oliver (Strickler) and Jake (Ackert) put up four shutouts. The goaltending was unbelievable all weekend. The boys stood on their heads, made unbelievable saves and kept us in games that were tight."

Though they were narrowly defeated by Cambridge in the gold-medal game by a score of 1-0, Becker called the silver-medal finish "a building block" for the rest of the season.

"The boys' goal for the tournament was to make it six games. They really proved they can compete with any team in the province. I hope this week builds their confidence and continues to come back into the Shamrock loop and continue to dominate like the way they did on the weekend."

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BIO

Born in London, raised in rural Ontario near St. Marys, Kim graduated from the Ontario College of Art. Almost 40 years later, over 20 as a full time artist, she has recently moved to Owen Sound. Having exhibited extensively across Canada, her work has been collected widely both nationally and internationally.

Her work is predominantly landscape and experience based. The use of colour evolves in ebbs and flow. Atlin's work changes as her interests evolve, seeking to capture not only what is seen, but what is felt in the fleeting transitions of place and time.

In September 2025 she had a solo exhibition at Bugera Lamb Gallery in Edmonton, her fourth exhibition in over 10 years of representation there. Her work can be found in Toronto at Dianna Witte Gallery, Edmonton at Bugera Lamb gallery, Saskatoon at Dervilla Art and Design amongst others.

For more information visit www.kimatlin.com or follow Kim on Instagram @kimatlin.

For more questions kim@kimatlin.com 416-706-5447

This is a great chance to see her latest work!

ART EXHIBITION



U18 C Girls claim hockey silver at Fergus tournament

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

The U18 C Girls St. Marys Rock took home the silver medals from the Grand River Mustangs Remembrance Day Classic Nov. 7-9 in Fergus.

After finishing third in the three-game round-robin, the Rock took on the Ottawa Ice in the semi-final. Chloe Pethick scored the only goal of the first period to put St. Marys ahead 1-0, before the two teams traded goals in the second frame, including a goal by Cammie Lobb.

Head coach Kelly Linton noted his squad finally began to address a concern they had been working on throughout the start of the season – starting on time.

“We began playing the way we needed to in the first period,” Linton told the Independent. “In the semi-final, that was the biggest difference maker. We just give them a reminder to go out and start right from the beginning of the first period. We basically had a screaming contest in the dressing room before the game, and I think that helped out a little



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The U18 C Girls St. Marys Rock took the silver medal at the Grand River Mustangs Remembrance Day Classic in Fergus Nov. 7-9. Pictured in the front row, from left to right, are Silver Breckon, Malaika Kibedi, Ella Frayne, Cortney Linton, Cammie Lobb and Marci Linton. In the back row, from left, are Abby McMillan, Paisley Wood, Deanna Muir, Kasey Storey, Georgia Edwards, Sunny Derbyshire, Brooklynn Roth, Georgia Agar, Isobelle Williams and Chloe Pethick. Not pictured was Sydney Haanstra.

bit. We told them to keep it simple, win the faceoff, get the puck into their end and get a shot right off the bat. That’s what they did, and they built on it from there.”

With the score tied at the end of regulation and overtime, the game entered a shootout with the winner earning a berth in the championship contest. After the first two rounds went by without

a goal, Cortney Linton fired a shot that went off the post and into the net, followed by Ottawa’s shot hitting off the post and turning out of the net.

In between the pipes, Malaika Kibedi turned in a strong showing throughout the weekend.

The Rock came up just short in the finals against Stittsville, falling 1-0, resulting in St. Marys leaving with the silver.

Linton said the team’s forechecking pressure was one of the biggest factors in advancing to the final game.

“When we turned the puck over, we got after it right away, and that makes huge differences in the game. When everybody was taking part in the forecheck, those were the moments we were at our best. When you can make 80 per cent of the girls forechecking hard, you’re going to force the team to turn over more pucks, and you’re going to control it more. I hope the success this weekend shows them how much fun winning is, and they continue to roll from here.”

Moments from DCVI fall sports season



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Haruka Sugimoto fires the ball towards the net during a DCVI girls’ field hockey game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Justin Ropp dives to keep the ball in play during a DCVI senior boys volleyball game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Lilly Hartwick plays the ball up the field during a DCVI girls’ field hockey game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Dominic Marziali sets the ball for a teammate during a DCVI junior girls volleyball game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Evan Wolfkamp kneels to keep the ball in the air during a DCVI junior boys volleyball game earlier this season.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)

Zach Larmer bumps the ball into the air during a DCVI senior boys volleyball game earlier this season.

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KELLY HOLIFF AS ELSA. COSTUME DESIGN BY CORY SINGANNES. PHOTO BY JEFFREY LEE

Lincs claw back against Kings; near-perfect in Listowel



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Blake Elzinga celebrates against the glass with numerous young fans after scoring the game-tying goal in the St. Marys Lincolns' 7-4 victory on Nov. 14 against the Komoka Kings.

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Independent Sports Reporter

After salvaging two points in a top-sy-turvy game against the Komoka Kings on Nov. 14, the St. Marys Lincolns bounced back with one of the best performances of the season on Nov. 16 against the Listowel Cyclones.

A first period that was largely controlled by the Lincolns saw them jump out to a 3-0 lead against Komoka, with goals by Jack Clarke, a powerplay tally and his seventh of the year, as well as Lincoln Moore's ninth of the campaign and the first goal as a Lincoln for Oliver Lacko.

Lacko's goal came after a dash by the freshly acquired Atley Rogers, who was brought to St. Marys from the Strathroy

Rockets. Rogers described an incredible experience following his Lincolns' debut.

"This is an amazing group," said Rogers. "I've only had one practice, but it's felt like home. I've really enjoyed my first couple of days here and it's a great team to back it up, so I'm looking forward to the future and the rest of the year with these guys. I always come into this barn, and I hated sitting in that visitor's bench. I hated hearing the horn, but when you get on the right side of it, it's pretty special to be a part of."

Head coach Jeff Bradley was thrilled with Rogers' performance, noting how well he complemented his linemates, Chase McDougall and Jack Clarke.

"I've coached against Atley (Rogers) for a few years now, but I don't really



(MCGINNY PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO)

Blake Elzinga puts home the game-tying goal in the St. Marys Lincolns' 7-4 win over the Komoka Kings on Nov. 14. Elzinga also scored in the Lincolns' 4-0 victory over the Listowel Cyclones on Nov. 16.

get a chance to look at him and watch him closely, so to see him playing with Chase (McDougall) and Jack (Clarke), I think it added an extra layer of skill to that line. Sometimes with skilled guys, you worry about how they are away from the puck and if they really care about the defensive side of things, and we talked to Atley about some things before the game that were important to us, and he executed very well, and we were really happy with Atley."

The Lincolns also added 19-year-old defenceman Cam Kean, who picked up an assist in his Lincs' debut against Komoka. According to general manager Pat Powers, the skillsets and experience of both players add another layer of ability to the Lincolns' lineup.

"Atley (Rogers) adds some scoring

depth," Powers told the Independent. "His speed and tenacity are both benefits, along with his experience in junior hockey. And with Cam (Kean), it's nice to add a right-shot defenceman who brings a physical presence. He moves pucks hard and makes a great first pass."

While the first period was a solid start to the game for St. Marys, the second period was anything but, as the speedy Kings took advantage of the Lincolns losing their structure and cutting the deficit to just one goal by the second intermission thanks to goals from Mason Landry and Nash Jacobs.

Bradley noted the puck management wasn't up to par in the middle frame.

"We started turning pucks over where we shouldn't be doing it. Komoka is very

CONTINUED TO PAGE 25



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Lincs claw back against Kings; near-perfect in Listowel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

fast and their fast players like to join in on the rush, and we talked about it in our pregame meeting. Our forecheck is our bread and butter, but at times, we got into some bad habits. After the first phase of our forecheck, we were quitting on the second and we can't do that because we allowed a team we were beating back into the game."

It then took the Kings just three minutes and 33 seconds in the third period to score two more, with the Lincolns going from having a 3-0 lead to trailing 4-3. However, the Lincolns managed to refocus with Blake Elzinga tying the game at the 6:51 mark of the third followed by a go-ahead goal by Devun Colebrook around two and a half minutes later.

While their ability to get back to their gameplan and avoid losing the game was a positive, Bradley made it clear the team's standard is to not squander a 3-0 lead.

"We dug in when we were down and started playing really well once they scored that fourth goal, but I don't think we get credit for doing that because we put ourselves in that position to have to

come back," said Bradley. "There are definitely areas we have to clean up because if we start playing like that against top teams, we're not going to be able to come back. I hope it's a lesson learned."

Chase MacQueen-Spence one-timed home an insurance marker before Owen Voortman hit a late-game empty netter to seal a 7-4 victory for the Lincolns.

Lincs' outstanding performance secures shutout win over Cyclones

The Lincolns didn't make the same mistakes in their trip to Listowel on Nov. 16, turning in what the bench boss described as one of the team's best outings of the year and earning a 4-0 victory.

"I thought that was one of our more complete games this season," said Bradley. "I loved how we competed. I loved our attention to detail. I loved how they worked hard to be on the right side of their guys and right side of the puck. We sent our pre-scout in the morning and then talked about it before the game, and I thought they did everything they could to execute what we asked them to. At times, that's a lot to put on them, and you sometimes throw a lot at the wall and hope something sticks, but in that

game, everything stuck."

The excellent performance came against a Cyclones squad that, despite their place near the bottom of the Western Conference standings, remains one of the most structured and well-coached teams in the entire league.

"We look forward to playing Listowel every year because of the way they're coached," said Bradley. "We know it's not going to be like a game of shinny, and honestly, it's the furthest thing from a game of shinny because we know how organized they are. We know we're going to have to get our thinking caps on and it makes it more fun for the coaching staff, and a very interesting game to be a coach in."

Declan Ready buried his third of the season to open the scoring halfway through the first period, the only goal of the first period.

The floodgates finally opened in the second, with three goals in the final seven minutes and 34 seconds. Elzinga fired home his sixth of the year and MacQueen-Spence, who delivered one of his best games of the season, buried a pair.

Bradley was thrilled with his entire team's play, but specifically mentioned the line of MacQueen-Spence, Moore and Voortman for rebounding after a less-than-stellar showing against the Kings.

"Our whole team played great, but I thought it was great for our top line to step up the way they did," Bradley said. "I challenged those three to be better at five-on-five. I didn't like the way they managed the puck and some of the back-checking (on Nov. 14), but against Listowel, I thought they were great. That was, to me, their best game as a line since the beginning of the season, and they know we need that out of them because if that line stays together and plays the way they're capable of, then we can keep the rest of the lines together because we really like the rest of our lines."

The Lincolns limited the Cyclones to just three shots on net in the third to close out the 4-0 win, and Brogan Colquhoun made 25 saves in the game to pick up his first Greater Ontario Hockey League (GOHL) shutout.

Lincs Alumni honours 1975-76 All-Ontario champions



(MORGAN EASTON PHOTO)

On Nov. 14, the St. Marys Lincolns Alumni Group honoured the 1975-76 Lincolns team, which won the Sutherland Cup 50 years ago in Collingwood. Members of this talented team were introduced on the ice just prior to the Lincolns' game against the Komoka Kings. Representing the 1975-76 Lincs and taking part in the ceremonial puck drops were general manager Mike Brogden, Myrt Hearn (wife of coach Barry Hearn) and captain Paul Vander-spark. During their historic season, the Lincolns finished all five of their playoff series with a victory on the road.



(PAT PAYTON PHOTO)

During their 50th anniversary team reunion on Nov. 14, the 1975-76 Lincolns were given a tour of the Lincs' recently-renovated dressing room, where they are purchasing two new players' stalls. From left to right, in the front row, are Dave Stacey, Paul Vanderspank, Bob Binning, Cathy Alcombrack (wife of Doug Kennedy), Brian Lindsay, Brian Dundas and trainer Doug Thirkettle. In the back row, from left, are Dennis Thorpe, club president Gerry Teahen, Bob Stephens, Gerry Seguin, GM Mike Brogden, Myrt Hearn (wife of coach Barry Hearn), Glenn Coghlin, Gord Yuill, Terry Warboys, Tom Bailey, Bob Marr, Bob Summers and Perry Stover.



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St. Marys bowlers medal in YBC Championship Singles



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left, from left to right, are Rory Brockman, Landon Ball, and Nathan McKeen. Pictured on the right, from left, are Nate Sims and Leia Slaney. Brockman, Ball, and McKeen all competed in the senior division of the YBC Championship Singles tournament on Nov. 16. McKeen was awarded the bronze medal with an average of 202. Ball placed eighth, bowling an average of 175. On the girls' side, Brockman finished in the fourth position with an average of 190. Sims and Slaney competed in the junior division, which was hosted at New Hamburg Lanes, and both bowled above their average.

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(TURNER ROTH PHOTO)
Nicholas Madsen fires a long-range shot from the point during a Dunny's Source For Sports U10 A Boys St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Scarlett Maddock unloads the puck from the wing during last Saturday's St. Marys Land-scaping U11 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Hannah Hodgson kicks out the pad to make a save during the Masterfeeds U11 C Girls St. Marys Rock game last Friday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Lucy McFarlane rips a shot off the rush during last Saturday's Sam's Home Hardware U15 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Quinn Robson launches a shot from the blueline during the Veterinary Purchasing U15 C Girls St. Marys Rock game last Saturday.



(SPENCER SEYMOUR PHOTO)
Kayla Visneskie rockets a shot on net during last Friday's Hubbard Pharmacy U18 B Girls St. Marys Rock game.

Two St. Marys trios compete at Master Fall Youth tourney



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS)

Pictured on the left, from left to right, are Christie LeBlanc, Scott Rinn, and Rosie LeBlanc, who placed fourth at the Master Fall Youth tournament at C and D Lanes in Woodstock on Oct. 26. On the right, from left, are Brendan King, Derek King, and Nate Sims, who placed 15th at the same tournament. Sims won an individual medal in the junior division for having the highest points over average at 146.



St. Marys Registration



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are that of their authors and do not reflect the opinions of the St. Marys Independent or Grant Haven Media.

Council needs to preserve St. Marys' limestone heritage

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concerns about council's plan to demolish the quarry pillars.

The quarry industry was, and still remains, an important part of our town. Limestone products from our quarries are shipped around the world over 180 years after the settlement of our town. We, the residents of St. Marys, are the beneficiaries of a "legacy of limestone" in the many fine buildings we see

around us today – from private homes to churches to handsome commercial buildings. The limestone quarried in St. Marys has significantly contributed to our built environment.

This fall, I had the privilege of taking over 200 people on the Spirits of St. Marys ghost walk. Many of my guests live in St. Marys, but I also had patrons from London, Woodstock, Kitchener, Stratford and other parts of Perth County. The strong response to the tour con-

firms to me that people have an interest in local history, and they want to learn more about our past.

The quarry pillars served as a perfect backdrop on my walking tour and helped to showcase our industrial heritage in a tangible way. Many of the early quarry workers faced difficult working conditions. It was heavy, dirty and often dangerous work. We must not forget their contributions. It is important to keep the quarry pillars as they help to inform and

educate us about the past.

I have requested delegation status to speak to St. Marys town council at its Nov. 25 meeting in support of preserving the quarry pillars. I encourage other individuals who support maintaining the quarry pillars to express their opinions to our mayor and councillors either by attending the meeting or sending an email to them outlining your views.

Sincerely,

Lauri Leduc, St. Marys

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COLUMNS

UKRAINIAN CORNER: An immigrant's guide to Canadian culinary standards

ALONA VASYLIEVA

Independent Columnist

Canada, the great mosaic, is a land rich in opportunity, beautiful nature and, perhaps most importantly, incredibly diverse food. As an immigrant, I've noticed something wonderful: you can genuinely taste the motherland in Canadian ethnic eateries.

And the best part? It's food for the people! You don't need to mortgage a kidney to afford a truly authentic taste of anywhere. This is a stark contrast to my previous life, where a "nice dinner out" in Kyiv often required not just a reservation, but also a pre-meal panic about whether my outfit was sufficiently fancy-schmancy to justify the exorbitant prices. Yes, the interiors of some Ukrainian restaurants are breathtaking – a veritable opera of velvet and crystal.

You end up having to mentally assess your outfit for "fancy-enough-ness" just to grab a bowl of soup. "Is this sweater too casual for this artisanal water?" It was always annoying.

Now in Canada, the struggle is different. Maybe I'm spoiled (partially true, I admit), but I've developed a new set of finicky standards. My ultimate culinary nightmare? Visiting a quite pricey restaurant only to have my shoe stick to the floor. I mean, if I'm shelling out for a nice meal, I expect the floor to be non-adhesive!

I dream of a balance; a place where I don't pay an outrageous premium just for the dazzling wallpaper, but where I can also enjoy my authentic, made-from-scratch meal in a space that has been recently acquainted with a mop. Is that too much to ask?

And speaking of made from scratch; you can't just slap a can of tomato paste on some pasta and call your establishment "Italian cuisine." If people are paying you, it means they've specifically opted not to eat their leftovers. They expect effort, not just assembly!

Humans, I've concluded, are absolutely obsessed with dough. Whether it's Italian ravioli, Chinese dim sum, or our beloved Ukrainian perogies – it's all about the glorious, boiled dough.

Now, as a Ukrainian, I can confirm that perogies are authentic. Do I love making them from scratch? No. I appreciate a frozen stash in the freezer, but they are



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

The salo-bacon culinary divide; a Ukrainian's pursuit of authenticity and unsticky floors.

absolutely not my favourite thing to spend an afternoon folding. I will leave that joyous, doughy duty to the experts.

Our true, unwavering obsession is buckwheat. While the rest of the world debates the merits of rice, we Ukrainians are bonded by kasha. It is our identity. Wherever we go, we seek the comforting presence of buckwheat. My son, Alex, once brought it in his thermos for school lunch, and his tablemates, bless their hearts, asked if it was bird food. I almost cried laughing.

If there's a defining feature of a Ukrainian kitchen, it is the holy trinity of dill, parsley, and sour cream. Our neighbor once confessed he Googled "What do

Ukrainians love to cook," when he heard where we were from, and the first result was, of course, dill. It's true. I will put it on everything. I love it!

And our sour cream? It's not just a garnish; it's a foundation! We add it to everything from borscht to perogies. Imagine my dismay when I discovered that Canadian sour cream often has the audacity to contain corn starch! I've since made the switch to plain Greek yogurt, but it was a culinary heartbreak.

Let's talk bacon. The Canadian kind is typically a lovely, meaty, breakfast staple. The Ukrainian kind? That would be salo – cured pork fatback. Yes, mostly fat. Yes, we eat it "raw" (cured/salted, not cooked), thinly sliced on dark rye bread with garlic. Try explaining that to a Canadian breakfast enthusiast! It's less of a main meal and more of a glorious, cured snack.

Grocery shopping is a battlefield, expertly manipulated by Big Retail. The placement of milk and eggs in the back? A classic psychological warfare tactic designed to turn us all into unwitting product-browsing robots. My go-to rule for grocery shopping is never be hungry. A hungry shopper is an impulsive shopper, capable of a full-blown meltdown tantrum in the artisan cheese aisle.

Every couple has grocery tasks where their styles simply don't align, and for us, grocery shopping is the prime example. I'm the list-maker and the quick-strike operative; he's the adventurous spirit who treats every aisle like a treasure hunt. While his leisurely browsing brings a delightful discovery of "new artisanal mustards," it entirely conflicts with my need for efficiency. Our solution? I make a list and stay at home, and my husband enjoys the shopping. Our efficiency levels are mutually exclusive!

Speaking of glorious Canadian perks, the year-round bounty of delicious berries – even from as far as Peru or Mexico – is a brilliant seasonal antidote to the six months of snow. It feels like a beautiful bonus for enduring a long winter!

I am happy to know that if I suddenly feel a twinge of homesickness, I can find practically any Ukrainian product. And if I cannot find something, it simply means I have not checked good enough yet.

Straight from the Shelves

LAURA MCASH

St. Marys Public Library

Have some fun at the Library on your next PA Day! We have fun drop-in activities available for kids to interact with from open (10:30 a.m.) to close (5 p.m.) tomorrow (Friday, November 21). Complete a scavenger hunt, add colour to a giant colouring page, and more! This program is free to attend, and no registration is required.

This Week's Recommendation

Have you heard? The St. Marys Public Library has new YOTO cards! That means that there are even more stories and songs for your young ones to enjoy. From dinosaur tales and "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" to pre-school song collections and "Winnie-The-Pooh", there is something for every listener. Patrons can borrow up to 5 YOTO cards at

a time, or 10 if you are borrowing them alongside one of our YOTO Players. Both cards and players have a 3-week loan time. Check out BiblioCommons to see our full selection of cards and to place a hold on a player today!

Up This Week

Fri., Nov. 21: PA Fun Day (10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Sat., Nov. 22: Dungeons and Dragons (10 a.m.)

Mon., Nov. 24: Euchre Mondays (10:30 a.m.), Learn to Play Bridge (1-3 p.m.)

Tues., Nov. 25: Tuesday Book Club* (11 a.m.), Tween Book Club* (6 p.m.)

Wed., Nov. 26: EarlyON Play and Read (9:30-10:30 a.m.), Mahjong! (1-4 p.m.), Scrabble (6-8 p.m.), Make and Take: Origami Stars* (7-9 p.m.)

Thurs., Nov. 27: Capital Campaign Committee Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

*Registration Required

Ask the Arborist

By Joel Hackett | 519 272 5742 | jtsquote@gmail.com

**Dear Arborist,**

I saw your article in the Woodstock-Ingersoll Echo, Oct. 24/25 issue. Branches on my Alberta spruce are separating and creating large holes. Please share why this might be happening. Is there something that I should be doing to correct and prevent this from continuing?

Thanks, Cyndy

Dear Cyndy,

Sometimes, Alberta spruce get spider mites which are little red spider-looking things. Normally, the first sign is webs. There will not be much evidence, currently, you will have to wait until next summer

to know for sure. If infested with spider mites, they will sometimes kill a portion of the shrub, eventually creating a hole. However, the damage could also be from snow or from an animal.

Unfortunately, there is no real way to fix it. You can use pesticides for the spider mites, and it might fill back in over time.

Sincerely,

The Arborist

Joel Hackett is a certified Arborist residing in the St. Marys area. Currently, he spends most of the year running Joel's Tree Service. For contact call 519 272 5742 or email jtsquote@gmail.com

HISTORIC ST. MARYS: William Notman: St. Marys connections

MARY SMITH

Independent Columnist

In February 1870, Charles Stockman Rumsey had this photograph taken at William Notman's Bleury Street studio in Montreal. With the studio's painted winter scene as a backdrop, Rumsey appears to be skating on an outdoor rink. If he looks rather rigid and uncomfortable, consider the effort to hold that pose the length of time required for the studio camera to capture the image. He had the help of a hidden support on his left side but even so, it must have been challenging. Rumsey is dressed in the costume he would wear to the social event of the winter season – the grand Skating Carnival at Victoria Rink on March 1. Prince Arthur, Queen Victoria's youngest son, was expected to attend. The cabinet card print was kept by Charles Rumsey and came with him to St. Marys when he opened a branch of the Federal Bank here in 1875. Many years later, it found its way to the St. Marys Museum where it is one of the treasures in the historic image collection.

William Notman, the photographer, was pleased with this photograph too. As a means of promoting his growing business, he wanted to create a large composite picture of the Skating Carnival. On February 25, he placed a notice in the Montreal Gazette that read: "The approaching CARNIVAL at the skating rink is likely to be one of more than ordinary interest from the fact that His Royal Highness Prince Arthur is expected to grace the occasion with his presence. I have therefore selected this opportunity as one offering many advantages, to carry out what has long been my intention: To get up an effective PICTURE OF THE RINK, for which purpose I beg to request that you will give me an early sitting, before or as soon after the event as possible, in the Costume you intend to use on the occasion. Your obedient servant, William Notman."

The families of Montreal's Anglo community – bankers, merchants, shipping magnates, politicians – prepared their costumes and arranged for their sittings in Notman's studio. Some 300 photographs were taken of the would-be celebrity skaters. To make the composite photograph, each portrait was printed in various sizes and the figures carefully cut out in the Notman studio's art department. Notman himself arranged them on a composite negative, the largest at the front with progressively smaller ones at the back to create the illusion of depth. The final product was printed and sold as a souvenir of the event. Notman also created a 137 x 176 centimetre reproduction, painted in oils on canvas by his studio artists. This enhancement of each of the figures shows the rich colours of their costumes.

It is worth searching the internet for the Skating Carnival, a famous 19th century Canadian photograph, not only to see the skaters, but also the details of Victoria Rink, considered the finest indoor ice surface of its time. This



(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ST. MARYS MUSEUM'S HISTORIC IMAGE COLLECTION)

William Notman, the famous 19th century Canadian photographer, took this picture of C. S. Rumsey in 1870. Rumsey is in the costume he wore to a grand Skating Carnival held in Montreal that year.

two-storey, brick building with a pitched roof, about the size of a modern arena, opened in 1862 on Drummond Street near the centre of Montreal. A low wooden promenade for spectators surrounded the ice surface, like walking tracks in some arenas today. For the 1870 Carnival, the rink's arched trusses were decorated with evergreen garlands and colourful flags and banners. Notman's photograph shows them suspended over an ice surface crowded with hundreds of costumed skaters. The costumes are elaborate and varied. There are hunters, sailors, French courtiers, Highland chieftains, and Elizabethan ladies. The figures in the foreground would have been recognisable to their contemporaries while the skaters farther back, many with their faces turned away, provide the context. A numbered key was drawn up and provided to purchasers of the prints. This key identified the largest figure in the foreground as 32-year-old banker, Charles Stockman Rumsey. The composite only shows his head and shoulders as he appears to skate past. But it does show the feather plumes in his hat and the rich, brown fabric of his fancy jacket. A close look shows that this is not exactly the same picture of Rumsey as the one with this week's column. In the composite, his right arm is on the backswing, not forward as shown in the cabinet card. But the photographs were certainly taken at the same time. Rumsey chose the one he liked and Notman chose another for his grand photographic project.

A wealth of information about William Notman and his photography is available for those interested. He was not originally a photographer. He was born in 1826 in Paisley, Scotland, the son of a cloth merchant who relocated his family to Glasgow ca 1840. Young William entered the business world working for his father. In June 1853, he married Alice Woodward in King's Stanley, Gloucestershire, England. Their daughter Fran-

al and westward. Notman made sure his photographs of the bridge were widely circulated. Queen Victoria was invited to the opening ceremony but declined and, in fact, never did visit Canada. But she sent her son, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, in her place. Although trains had been using it for several months, he officially inaugurated Victoria Bridge in August 1860. Notman prepared two beautifully bound portfolios showing his photographs of Canada East to send to the Queen who was interested in photography. She was pleased with the pictures and named him "Photographer to the Queen." Whether or not this title was ever strictly official, from then on, Notman used it in his advertising.

By 1859, Notman was prospering. He expanded into a bigger studio on Bleury Street and moved his family to a house on Sherbrooke. He brought his parents, three brothers and his younger sister from Glasgow to Montreal. By the time of the 1870 Skating Carnival photograph that included C. S. Rumsey, he had between 30 and 40 employees in his Montreal studio, both men and women – photographers, artists, darkroom assistants, receptionists, bookkeepers, and studio dressers. He established a studio in Ottawa following Confederation and had branches in Toronto and Halifax. He and his photographers travelled all over the provinces and into the United States, taking landscape photographs that could be sold as souvenirs, often in the form of stereoscope cards.

But studio work was still his bread and butter, and he continued to produce beautiful portraits of Montreal residents and of visiting dignitaries and celebrities. Some of his loveliest photographs were of his much younger sister, Margaret Notman, who frequently posed for him after she came with their family to live in Montreal. Born in Glasgow in 1846, she was 20 years William's junior. As it turned out, Margaret would be an even stronger link than C. S. Rumsey between the town of St. Marys and William Notman, the famous Montreal photographer. This will be explained in next week's column.



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OH, THE PLACES WE'LL GO: The shared vision of two couples creates a dining dream



PAUL KNOWLES

Independent Columnist

"I love it when a plan comes together."

I'm guessing that none of the four young partners in the astonishing new Niagara-on-the-lake restaurant, Revé, are old enough to remember that quote. But it applies because Revé is indeed the result of a plan that has come together, beautifully. Or, to quote from their website, "Four individuals with one collective dream: to curate a journey like no other."

That "journey" involves unique and amazing food, and all of the stories behind the culinary creations. And the four individuals are two young couples: Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham, and Nicole Pisarenko and Adriano Cappuzzello.

In many ways, this is a love story; love for food, love for the land, love for culture and love for each other.

Cappuzzello is chef. He's a native of Sicily, where his culinary story began. That's also where his and Pisarenko's story began – she was on a study trip from George Brown College when she met Cappuzzello.

Katherine and Gillingham come to the restaurant business as event planners, but they shared the vision of running a

superb restaurant with their friends.

And so, less than three months ago, Revé opened.

The moment you walk in the door, you begin to experience the story. Suspended from the ceiling is a unique bit of living décor – a large, moss-covered panel. Katherine explains their goal was to create an atmosphere to reflect the philosophy of the restaurant – food that is farm to table, locally sourced from the Niagara Peninsula and southwestern Ontario.

And, oh, what food! Guests can order from a menu, but the hosts prefer that they don't because the true experience at Revé is to dine at the chef's counter, seated near the open fire, anticipating the next astonishing taste to come your way, each a step in a 10-course blind journey.

So, we did. A visit and a story from Cappuzzello accompany each course. He explains the dish and tells the story behind it. Many of the tastes involve a wonderful combination of Sicilian and Canadian cuisines, like our third course, an exquisite beef tartare, prepared by Cappuzzello as a memory of Sicilian tuna tartare. But the grass-fed beef comes from Heatherbrae Farms in Wellesley!

Cappuzzello, who has worked in Michelin Star kitchens throughout Europe and Canada, consistently finds a way to combine the magic of uber high-end recipes with food prepared by his Sicilian mother and grandmother, such as delicious venison, dubbed "Mama's Pizzaiola," made with cherry tomato, oregano, black garlic zabalone and undoubtedly several more secret ingredients.

The menu celebrates international flavours from Sable Fish that reflects Korean barbecue to Beef Bavette, a taste of France. Adapted and improved, of course, by Cappuzzello and his talented team.

I won't elaborate on all 10 courses because they will undoubtedly be changed by the time you dine at Revé. That's part of the charm; you don't know what you will be eating, but you know it will be amazing, an experience that stretches for hours.

Each course – a small serving, beautifully presented – is served on dinnerware handmade specifically for Revé by a glass artist in Sicily. And by the way, you can have a flight of wines paired with your food – in our case, several superb wines from Ontario or Sicily.

I mentioned that each course includes a story. In truth, Cappuzzello's personal story is captivating. Because his father knew the owner, Cappuzzello was able to get a summer job in a Michelin-Star restaurant in Sicily when he was only 14 years old. He immediately announced to his family that this was to be his calling, and he didn't want to go to school anymore. His parents overruled that idea, but Cappuzzello continued to spend all of his out-of-school hours in high-end restaurants, learning the culinary arts.

At age 17, he moved to Madrid, working in a small restaurant where he was the chef. He told me he spent his off hours visiting other restaurants, for the first time encountering cuisines like Vietnamese and Mexican.

Cappuzzello then moved to Malta, "Where I got to work



(PAUL KNOWLES PHOTOS)

The open fire adjacent to the "Chef's Counter."

with Chef Andrew Pace. He's a visionary. He opened my eyes."

Eventually, after working in top-of-the-line restaurants in Italy and Berlin, he came home to Sicily where he met Pisarenko, who in turn brought him home to Canada. He continued to work as a chef, including at Langdon Hall, but now, his personal vision – shared by Pisarenko, Katherine and Gillingham – has become a reality in Niagara-on-the-lake.

The 10-course Chef's Counter tasting menu costs \$225; wine, either individual or a matching flight, is extra. If you normally eat at a fast-food joint, that will

seem like a lot, but if you are a foodie, or more simply a lover of good food, you'll be hitting the website to make a reservation.

We sat next to a couple who were making their third trip to Revé in only a couple of months. They praised "the hospitality, the food, everything!"

They were right; Revé is just that good.

Paul Knowles is an author and travel writer, and Past-President of the Travel Media Association of Canada. To contact Paul about travel, his books, or speaking engagements, email pknowles@golden.net.



The fire of the candles and the moss on the ceiling feature invoke Revé's connection to the land and nature.



The visionary owners of the new restaurant; from left, Chef Adriano Cappuzzello, Nicole Pisarenko, Anna Katherine and Kevin Gillingham.

FROM THE GARDEN: Quince: the forgotten fruit



NANCY ABRA

Independent Columnist

A couple of weeks ago, a neighbour showed up at my door with two shopping bags brimming with golden, fragrant quince. I was grateful for her thinking of me and her confidence in my food preserving skills. She said she was not successful in cooking this fruit but knew I could work my culinary magic and come up with something. I graciously accepted her offering; besides, I am not one to dismiss a challenge.

I knew a little about the heritage of this fruit, a fruit tree that many of our forefathers planted near their homes or added to the family orchard. In my research, I discovered more about this ancient fruit. Often overlooked, quince holds tales that span continents and centuries.

Quince (*Cydonia oblonga*) has been cultivated for over 4,000 years, with roots in the Cauca-

sus region that spans Eastern Europe and Western Asia, as well as in the Persia (Iran) area. Many scholars and traditions suggest that the quince may have been the “forbidden fruit” in the Garden of Eden, since apples were not native to the Middle East at the time. The Bible itself never names the fruit, and the association with apples came much later through translation and European art.

In ancient Greece, it was sacred to Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Legend has it that Paris awarded her a quince as the prize for beauty – a gesture that sparked the Trojan War. Romans believed quince symbolized fertility and offered it to newlyweds to sweeten their breath and bless their union.

In Renaissance Europe, quince was a luxury fruit often made into jellies and marmalades. Its high pectin content made it ideal for preserves and its sweet, fragrant aroma earned it a place in perfumed potpourris and still-life paintings.

The culinary traditions cross many cultures. In Middle Eastern cuisine, quince is a staple in Persian stews where its tartness balances rich meats and spices. In Spain, quince paste (membrillo) paired with Manchego cheese is a beloved tapas



tradition. Italians make cotognata, a thick fruit jelly often served with nuts or cheeses. In the French Provence cuisine, quince is slow-cooked into aromatic jams and served with croissants.

Even though Southern Ontario does not boast a temperate climate, quince trees thrive in our climate, especially in well-drained soil and in full sun. Quince is a hardy, compact fruit tree that grows to 3.6 to 4.6 metres in height. It is self-fertile, though cross-pollination enhances harvests. In mid-to-late spring, quince produces fra-

grant white-to-pink blossoms that attract bees. Quince trees usually start producing fruit after five to six years. Then in October to early November, they bear baseball-sized bright green fruit, ripening to golden yellow ready to pick for cooking and preserves. The fruit itself is unique as it has a fuzzy outer covering which can be easily scrubbed off to reveal a waxy peel.

Urban orchardists in some cities in Southern Ontario have successfully cultivated quince from seed and have championed this old unique fruit as

resilient and low-maintenance, making it both an ornamental and productive addition to backyard gardens.

Though quince is not usually in the produce section of mainstream grocery shelves, it enjoys a quiet renaissance at some farmer's markets, among urban gardeners and artisan food creators of quince butter, jelly or jam. Its rarity adds to its charm – those who grow it often share their quince harvest as a gift, much like my neighbour did, continuing a tradition of generosity and autumn celebration of this unique forgotten fruit.

COUNTRY CRAFT SHOW

29 NOV from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Jane Sparling's
7101 Cobble Hills Road, St. Marys
About 1/2 mile south of Highway 7

MULTIPLE CRAFTERS IN ONE LOCATION!
PERFECT PLACE TO PICK UP A HANDMADE GIFT FOR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES!

Flannel quilts of all sizes from pet size to full size - many come with a decorative pillow, tractor panel quilts, tea towels, mug rugs, potato bags, placemats and fabric games!

Custom painted rocks with anything you can imagine! Check out this crafter's website on... www.facebook.com/kcrocks.2025

Warmables, one of a kind flannel baby blankets, Elf on the Shelf accessories, and lavender eye pillows

Quilts of various sizes, reusable shopping/gift bags, receiving blankets, burp cloths, drool bibs, pillow cases, playing card holders, cell phone stands, chap stick/ lighter holders, as well as pocket tissue holders!

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COME ON OUT AND SEE ALL OF US ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH FROM 10-5!

Light refreshments available in sitting room. All crafters are able to do custom orders as well... just ask if you want something different than what you see at this show!

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Solutions on pg. 39

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT GRANTHAVEN.COM

Riddles

- I'm full of keys but can't open a single door.
What am I?
A piano
- I fly without wings. I cry without eyes. Wherever
I go, darkness flies. What am I?
A cloud
- What has a neck but no head, and often wears
a cap?
A bottle
- I get wetter the more I dry. What am I?
A towel
- I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old.
What am I?
A candle
- I have a tail and a head, but no body. What am I?
A coin
- What has many teeth but never bites?
A comb
- You can catch me but not throw me. What am I?
A cold
- I'm not alive, but I grow. I don't have lungs, but
I need air. I don't have a mouth, but water kills
me. What am I?
Fire
- What building has the most stories?
A library

- Word Search -



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C Z R J T P J C Q O C J Z E J P P R X L
W U X P Q K U C E N W B Z K P N L H R H

- Winterlights
- Milt Dunnell Field
- Enchanting
- Santa parade
- Floats
- Costumes
- Music
- Excitement
- Open house
- Promotions
- Giveaways
- Wagon rides
- Holiday cheer
- The grinch



The Riddle Kid OF THE WEEK



Lenny Vergeer (8)

Hey Kids... Every Riddle Kid that appears in the paper gets a FREE MILKSHAKE at the Sunset Diner!

St. Marys Veterinary Clinic is pleased to be the sponsor of the

PET OF THE WEEK



Parades are fun for us, but overwhelming for many pets. Keep yours safe with a secure leash and ID tags, prep for the weather. Watch for stress signs, and if your pet seems anxious, move to a quiet spot or keep them home to stay safe and comfortable.



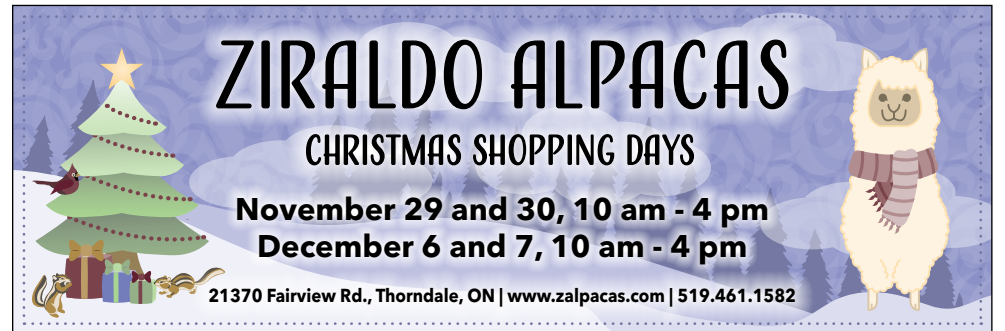
KERRY & SPENCER

Our Pets of the Week are two cavalier King Charles spaniels - Kerry, age seven, and Spencer, age two. This adorable twosome are an integral part of the greet and delivery team at Lyric Flowers. They are resting after a busy day at work.



Thorndale News

A section within the
St. Marys Independent



Lest we forget: Thorndale hosts Remembrance ceremony

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

With blustery, winter-like weather, there were still over 100 people who gathered at the Thorndale Cenotaph on Remembrance Day morning for the town's annual ceremony.

Les Youngson led the service of reflection, prayer and song with the poignant bugle call of "The Last Post," highlighting the reverence of this gathering.

Since 2016, Jodi McGuffin of Thorndale has researched the men whose names are on the Thorndale Cenotaph to share stories of their lives here and their military service at the Remembrance Day services in Thorndale. This year, she wrote about two young men from the area who served in world wars. Chris Tipping read their stories out to the gathering.

Thomas Rumble, who was called up for

service in June 1918, did not go overseas and see active duty. The following year, January 1918, he was released from his military service. The other young man, Leonard Burgess, signed up early, in September 1914, only 10 days after war was declared. He saw action in France. Though injured, he was one of the lucky ones and came home in 1918, and was officially discharged in May 1919.

McGuffin concluded her research with these words:

"It is not just those who did not return home who we need to remember. We must remember all who served, sacrificed and those who continue to serve our nation. As we seem to be in uncharted territory, those who serve our country face unknown challenges and foes. We hope for the power of diplomacy and reason prevailing. We owe all who served and continue to serve our gratitude and respect. Lest we forget."



The Thorndale Cenotaph.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE)

United Church continues to serve the community of Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

The Thorndale United Church has made many transformations since its early beginnings.

As its membership grew and the church needed more room, the basement was dug out in 1959 by a local contractor, Gord Robson of Kintore. A front entrance was added at the north of the church, facing King Street, at the same time. The new basement included lighting, and the walls were covered

with high-quality panelling, and a small kitchen was added for more church activities.

The kitchen underwent renovations in 2001 that included upgraded appliances. In 2009, a chair lift was installed at the front entrance of the church for more accessibility for members. When its sister church, Zion United Church at Medway and Clark Roads, closed in June 2023, Thorndale United renamed its meeting room "The Zion Room" as a tribute. The church painted the room and commissioned a large Lighthouse Mural paint-

ed to reflect the church's children Sunday School programming theme, "The Lighthouse." There is also a wonderful library of religious themed books set up by past member Penny Jones.

During this summer, the basement Fellowship Hall of Thorndale United Church underwent a complete renovation. The Stewards of the church organized the work, which was done by Murray Lee of Mur-ran Drywall. The walls, once covered in wood panelling, were repainted in a soft beige. New carpeting was laid, and the ceiling was redone

along with upgraded wiring for new lighting. These changes made the space noticeably brighter and more inviting.

This past October, the Thorndale United Church celebrated its 146th anniversary and, with this newly renovated Fellowship Hall for their events, the church continues to serve the community of Thorndale for more years to come.

For more information on the Thorndale United Church activities, visit <https://tzuc.ca/news/>.

Christmas Toy Drive to be held in Thorndale

NANCY ABRA

Independent Reporter

In 2021, Sheena Ball RMT of TherapyWorx at 160 King St. initiated a toy drive. Continuing her tradition, she launched the campaign again earlier this month to gather new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages, which will be given to local children this Christmas.

"Christmas is my favourite holiday," said Ball, "and with the economic uncertainty for many families, I want to bring, with the community's help, more joy to families who are struggling this Christmas."

Ball is partnering with the Thorndale Fire Station again this year.

"Older children can be a little tricky to buy for," Ball said, "so suggestions

such as board games, card games and sporting goods like soccer and basketballs are items that can grow with the recipients."

Unwrapped, new toys can be dropped off upstairs at 160 King St. until Dec. 11. The Thorndale Firefighters will pick up these donations, along with what they collect at the Thorndale Santa Claus parade on Dec. 12, and deliver them to

Dorchester for distribution in time for Christmas.

"Many thanks in advance to everyone wanting to participate" Ball said. "This year has been challenging for many families, so let's come together and help make this Christmas wonderful for everyone."

OBITUARY

Riehl



In Loving Memory of Mona Riehl 1932 – 2025

Born in Ellis Township in 1932, Mona lived a long and beautiful life filled with family, friendship, and simple joys. After many dedicated years of work at Dominion Chain in Stratford, she embraced retirement with

gratitude and grace, filling her days with the things she loved most.

Mona had a lifelong passion for gardening and took great pride in growing vibrant flowers, fresh fruits, and hearty vegetables. This abundant harvest would become delicious homecooked meals for her family. No one ever left Mona's kitchen hungry – or without a smile. She was known for her warmth, her positivity, and the resilience that carried her through life's challenges. Mona loved her walks, her music, and her dancing. She could light up a room with her beautiful smile and easy conversation.

Above all, Mona loved her family. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the joy of her heart and brought endless pride and happiness to her days. Her special bond with granddaughter Tara and great granddaughter Madison will be forever cherished.

Mona was loved dearly by son Stan Fraser (Cavell); daughter Christine Willemsen (Frank); and daughter-in-law Terri'lynn Fraser. Cherished grandchildren include Mallory Henderson (Brad), Alissa Fraser (Chris), Jared Fraser, Tara Willemsen (Rick), Josh Willemsen (Annaka), Nicole Moesker (Corey), and Heather King (Shane). Great-grandchildren include Bria and Kira; Liam and Callum; Madison; Ruby, Olivia, and Oliver; Ella, Paisley and Oakleigh; Myla and Riley.

She is also lovingly remembered by her siblings Carl Riehl, Brenda Eckstein, Susan Sanderson, Linda Murray, Judy (Gary) Schellenberger, Joanne Ballantyne and sister-in-law Florence Riehl. Mona was predeceased by her son Jada Fraser; brother Laurie Riehl; brothers-in-law Barry Ballantyne, Bill Sanderson, Barry Eckstein, and Dave Murray; and sister-in-law Pam Riehl.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the wonderful staff at Wildwood Care Centre in St. Marys for their kindness and for treating Mona as part of their own family.

A private graveside service was held at St. John's Lutheran Church Cemetery in Wartburg, followed by a family celebration of Mona's life on November 13th. Expressions of sympathy may be made to the local community food centre through the W.G. Young Funeral Home, 430 Huron Street, Stratford, 519-271-7411, or online at www.wgyoungfuneralhome.com

Mona's gentle spirit, love of nature, laughter and caring heart will be deeply missed by all who knew her, but her warmth, kindness, and joyful spirit will dance on in the hearts of those she touched.

OBITUARY

Jeffrey



Robert "Bob" Nelson Jeffrey formerly of RR 4 Denfield
June 25, 1930 - November 15, 2025

Passed away peacefully at McGarrell Place, London, Ontario on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at the age of 95. Predeceased by

his beloved wife of 68 years, Donna (Thornicroft) Jeffrey. Proud father of Scott and Cynthia Jeffrey, Brenda Jeffrey, Lois and Steve Davies, and Tim and Jan Jeffrey. Adored grandpa of Matthew, Andrew (Jenny); Rob (Maggie), Greg (Brit); Sarah, Ben; Jack, Ruby; and great grandpa of Blair, Theo, and Talon. Predeceased by his parents, William and Kathleen (Thistle) Jeffrey and siblings, Donald Jeffrey, Margaret Jeffrey, William (Lyda) Jeffrey, Alex (Wilma) Jeffrey, Ken (Reta) Jeffrey, Isabel (Max) Tye, Hugh Jeffrey and Evelyn (Oren) Robinson. Dear brother of Elizabeth (Gray) Montgomery and Keith (Ann) Jeffrey. Brother-in-law of Audrey Jeffrey, Clari Thornicroft, Marg Thornicroft, Murray (Myrna) Thornicroft, Frances (Ron) Hand, and Janet Mitchell. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Bob loved meeting and getting to know people everywhere he went. Never one to shy away from a hard day's work, Bob was a true country boy who enjoyed farming with Donna on their farm on Thirteen Mile Road in London Township. He was a dedicated member of the Thorndale Lions Club for 60 years and was recognized for his service to the club and the community many times over the years. Bob enjoyed country music, dancing, playing euchre, and celebrating family milestones. His family was his pride and joy. Life just won't be the same without him.

Visitation for Bob will be held at Haskett Funeral Home, 223 Main Street, LUCAN on Tuesday, November 25th from 4 - 6:30 PM. A Lions Service will be held in the funeral home at 6:30 PM.

Bob's funeral service will be held the following day, Wednesday, November 26th at 11 AM. Interment will be held at a later date at the Birr United Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing to make a donation in Bob's memory are asked to consider St. Marys Healthcare Foundation or the London Food Bank. Condolences may be forwarded online through www.haskettfh.com

The family wishes to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the staff at both McGarrell Place and Richmond Woods for the care and compassion shown to both Bob and Donna.

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Al-Anon Family Groups could help YOU! Call for time and place

1-800-706-9833 or App Available

OBITUARY

Griffiths



Marguerite Mary Griffiths
November 16, 1940 – November 14, 2025

Marguerite Mary Griffiths passed away at the St Marys Memorial Hospital on November 14, 2025, just two days before her 85th birthday, with family by her

side. Born in London, Ontario, Marg was the daughter of Lawrence and Muriel Chisholm (née Harding). She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Robert Charles Griffiths, and brothers Edward, Dave, and Gerald Chisholm. She is survived by her sons James (Susan) and Michael Griffiths, brother Chris Chisholm, grandchildren Jason, Jonathan, Jeffrey, Lindsay, Kenneth, Jacob, and Thomas Griffiths, Brett and Adam Hyatt, and five great-grandchildren.

Marg began her career teaching before dedicating herself to raising her family. She later returned to work at Kent Marketing, retiring as company president. A passionate world traveller, Marg and Bob explored the globe together, creating lifelong memories.

She cherished time at her Lake Huron cottage and her vacation home in Puerto Vallarta, which she joyfully shared with family and friends. Known for her wisdom, compassion, and curiosity, Marg made lasting connections wherever she went.

Her final years at Fairhill Residence in St Marys were filled with friendship and care, for which the family is deeply grateful. In accordance with Marg's wishes, cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Online tributes at www.hodgesfuneralhome.ca.



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St. Marys and Area MOBILITY SERVICE

Accessible Transportation Driver

Full-Time (30+ hours per week)

ROLE OVERVIEW

St. Marys & Area Mobility Service is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing accessible and volunteer, door-to-door transportation for residents in our community. We support older adults (55+) and persons with varying abilities (18+), helping them maintain independence and stay connected.

POSITION SUMMARY

We are seeking a caring, reliable, and safety-focused Accessible Transportation Driver to join our team. In this role, you will operate agency-owned accessible vehicles, ensuring clients are transported safely and comfortably to their destinations. This position is physically active and requires assisting clients with boarding, securing mobility devices, and operating vehicle accessibility equipment.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide courteous, door-to-door transportation for clients using agency vehicles
- Assist passengers with boarding, exiting, and securing mobility aids safely
- Operate lift and ramp systems according to established safety procedures
- Maintain accurate trip and client records using a mobile app
- Perform routine vehicle safety checks and report any maintenance concerns
- Represent St. Marys & Area Mobility Service with professionalism and compassion

QUALIFICATIONS

Education & Experience

- Secondary school diploma or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years of professional driving experience
- Experience working with older adults, seniors, or persons with disabilities is an asset
- Strong customer service background preferred

Skills & Requirements

- Valid G and F driver's licence (or equivalent) with a clean driving record
- Current First Aid and CPR certification (or willingness to obtain)
- Comfortable using mobile devices and transportation software
- Able to work flexible shifts, including split shifts, weekdays, and some evenings
- Physically able to lift, bend, and crouch as part of assisting clients
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team setting
- Willingness to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as required

Compensation

- Hourly wage: \$20.34 – \$22.94, commensurate with experience and qualifications
- Supportive team environment with meaningful community impact

HOW TO APPLY

If you are a compassionate driver who enjoys helping others and making a difference, we'd love to hear from you! Please submit your cover letter and resume to apply. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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This position requires the ability to multi-task in a fast paced environment and excellent communication skills. Pleasant telephone manner is essential and knowledge of medical terminology is an asset.

Please forward resume by November 24th 2025 to:

Happy Valley Family Health Team
Attention: Kimberly Lang, Executive Director
268 Maiden Lane
P.O. Box 1120
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B7
stmmc@stmmc.ca

Thank you to all applicants who apply.

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Happy Valley Family Health Team welcomes and encourages applications from people with disabilities. Accommodations are available on request for candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process.

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Thur. Nov. 13 - Ewen Ross, Stratford	\$50.00
Fri. Nov. 14 - Ms Kim Pearson, St. Marys	\$50.00
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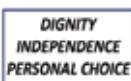
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SUDOKU ANSWERS

1	5	8	7	3	2	6	4	9
3	7	9	4	6	1	2	8	5
4	2	6	9	5	8	7	1	3
8	9	4	2	7	6	5	3	1
7	6	3	5	1	4	8	9	2
2	1	5	3	8	9	4	6	7
6	3	7	1	4	5	9	2	8
5	8	2	6	9	3	1	7	4
9	4	1	8	2	7	3	5	6

St. Marys Independent

THE WEEK AHEAD

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PRC & Friendship Centre events – See the Stonetown Crier on Page 5

St. Marys Library events – See Page 30

Friday, Nov 21

- Royal Canadian Legion hot dog lunch at Noon

- Downtown merchants open house – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Christmas market at Stratford Rotary Complex – 4-8 p.m.

- Festival of lights at Dorchester Community Park – 5:30-7:30 p.m.

- A.N.A.F. meat draw – 6 p.m.

- Stonetown Arts opening reception at Riverwalk Commons – 6-9 p.m.

- Kinsmen Santa Claus parade – Departs the PRC at 7 p.m.

- St. Marys Lincolns vs Listowel Cyclones at Steve Kerr Memorial Complex – 7:30 p.m.

- Thistle Theatre presents “The Perils of Persephone” at Embro Town Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 22

- Christmas market at Stratford Rotary Complex – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Downtown merchants open house – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Kim Atlin art exhibition at River Valley Golf Club – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Stonetown Arts show and sale at Riverwalk Commons – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Soulstice holiday wellness market at St. Marys Golf Club – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Alexis Fitszsimmons 75th birthday celebration at the Army & Navy – 2 p.m.

- Royal Canadian Legion meat draw – 5 p.m.

- Thistle Theatre presents “The Perils of Persephone” at Embro Town Hall – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 23

- Christmas market at Stratford Rotary Complex – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Downtown merchants open house – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Stonetown Arts show and sale at Riverwalk Commons – 12-4 p.m.

- Thistle Theatre presents “The Perils of Persephone” at Embro Town Hall – 2 p.m.

- St. Marys Lincolns vs Elmira Sugar Kings at Dan Snyder Memorial Arena – 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov 24

- Stonetown Travel cruise vacation presentation at the PRC – 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov 25

- Royal Canadian Legion buddy check coffee – 10 a.m. to Noon

- St. Marys Legion cribbage – Starts 7 p.m. sharp

Thursday, Nov 27

- A.N.A.F. NFL turkey dinner day – Serving at 1 p.m.

- Flower Shop & More Santa meet-and-greet with photoshoots – 5-7 p.m.

- Huron Perth Healthcare community update at the PRC – 6-8 p.m.

- 17 Church St. capital campaign committee meeting at the Library – 6:30 p.m.

Looking Back

AMY CUBBERLEY

Independent Columnist



Hahn re-elected

25 years ago (2000)

There were some anxious moments at Town Hall Monday night as the municipal election polls were slow to arrive, reportedly due to a very high turn-out of 48.15%. Jamie Hahn was re-elected as mayor. In the race for six council seats, all four incumbents (Don Van Galen, Kerry Campbell, Eugene Dufour, and Sandy Tays) were re-elected, as were newcomers Bruce Symons and Margaret Luna. The Avon Maitland District School Board successfully auctioned five of its six surplus buildings last week, including the sale of Stratford's Falstaff Public School to a numbered company representing Loreena McKennitt.

50 years ago (1975)

Mrs. Jim Craigmile, the former Pat Atkinson of St. Marys, has been named the supervisor of Physical Programs and Recreation for Mississauga. School crossing guards appeared to be left in the dark Monday morning when few youngsters turned out who needed any guidance across intersections. Liaison between schools and guards about when “Professional Development Days” are held appears to be a trifle sketchy to say the least.

75 years ago (1950)

Some 12,000 tons of sugar beets are now being delivered to the loading plant at Granton for shipment by C.N.R. The new concrete tennis courts being built by J.S. Lind as a contribution to the sports facilities at the local quarry swimming pool are being pushed to completion by contractors these days. These regulation-sized courts will be among the best in Western Ontario when completed.

100 years ago (1925)

On Thursday evening just at dusk, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Haines of the Mitchell Road had a miraculous escape from death. They were returning home from town in their buggy when the vehicle was struck with some force by a car driven by Clayton Fletcher, who was proceeding in the opposite direction. The accident occurred just a few feet beyond the Starr Inn corner. The buggy was a total wreck but the passengers, who were thrown out, escaped, as did the horse. The car suffered some damage. At Council this week, a decision was made to remove the silent policemen at night. Councillor Stewart said he noticed that the silent policeman at the corner of Queen and Wellington Streets has been struck and damaged in broad daylight.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. North Atlantic Ocean

2. The soprano

3. Notre Dame

4. Wasabi

5. Nov 10th, 1975

6. Mariah Carey

7. Brian Griffin

8. A drey

9. Italy

10. James Gandolfini



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